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60th Congress, 2d Session } HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES { Document No. 1518

CAMPBELL SLEMP

(Late a Representative from Virginia)

MEMORIAL ADDRESSES

Sixtieth Congress
First Session

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
March 7, 1908

Compiled under the direction of the Joint Committee on Printing

WASHINGTON : : GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : : 1909

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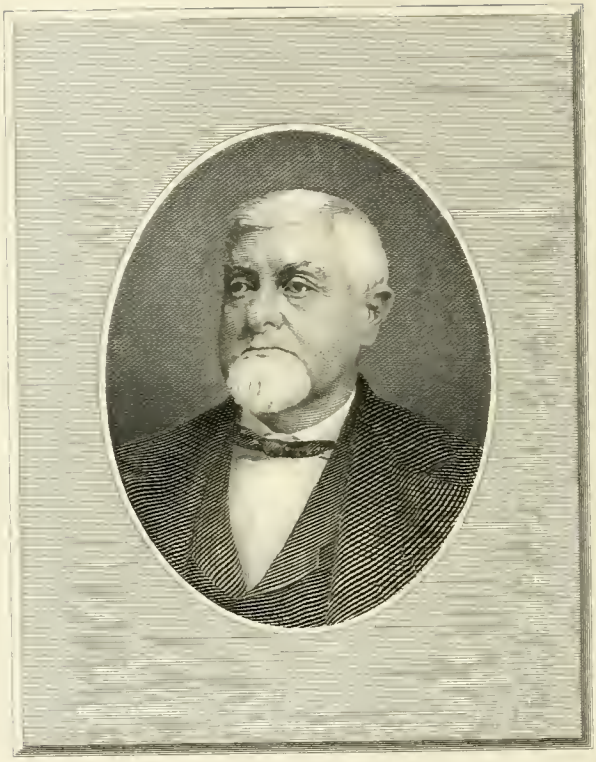

DEATH OF HON. CAMPBELL SLEMP

PROCEEDINGS IN THE HOUSE

MONDAY, *December 2, 1907.*

Mr. JONES, of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, it is with the deepest regret that I announce the death of my colleague, the Hon. CAMPBELL SLEMP, which occurred very suddenly at his home in Big Stone Gap on the morning of October the 13th last. At some future time I shall ask the House to set apart a day when Members may be afforded the opportunity to pay tribute to his life, character, and public services.

WEDNESDAY, *February 26, 1908.*

Mr. JONES, of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent for the present consideration of the order which I send to the Clerk's desk.

The Clerk read as follows:

Ordered, That at the hour of 2 o'clock p. m. on Saturday, March 7, legislative duties be suspended and eulogies on the life, character, and public services of the Hon. CAMPBELL SLEMP, late a Representative from Virginia, shall be in order.

There was no objection to the consideration, and the order was agreed to.

SATURDAY, *March 7, 1908.*

The House met at 12 o'clock m.

The Chaplain, Rev. Henry N. Couden, offered the following prayer:

We thank Thee, our Father in heaven, for the beautiful custom, long since established in the Congress of the United States, of memorializing those of its Members who pass from earth to the realms beyond and rest from their labors. "The righteous

shall be in everlasting remembrance and the memory of the just shall be blessed." It quickens the nobler aspirations of those who survive and emphasizes the virtues of those who have passed on. Bless the special service of the hour in memory of one who served faithfully and efficiently upon the floor of this House and left behind him a record worthy of an American statesman, who in war and in peace lived to his convictions, and died respected and beloved by all who knew him.

Let the everlasting arms be about the bereaved family to uphold and sustain them in their affliction and comfort them in the hope of a family reunion in the realms above where there shall be no more sorrow and no more tears, and Thine be the praise, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The SPEAKER. The hour of 2 o'clock having arrived the Clerk will read the special order.

The Clerk read as follows:

On motion of Mr. Jones, of Virginia, by unanimous consent,

Ordered, That at the hour of 2 o'clock p. m., on Saturday, March 7th, legislative duties be suspended and eulogies on the life, character, and public services of the Hon. CAMPBELL SLEMP, late a Representative from Virginia, shall be in order.

Mr. JONES, of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I offer the following resolutions.

The Clerk read as follows:

Resolved, That as a mark of respect to the Hon. CAMPBELL SLEMP, late a Member of this House from the State of Virginia, and in pursuance of the order heretofore made, the business of the House be now suspended to enable his associates to pay fitting tribute to his high character and distinguished services.

Resolved, That the Clerk communicate these resolutions to the Senate.

Resolved, That the Clerk be, and he is hereby, instructed to send a copy of these resolutions to the family of the deceased.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. Langley). The question is on agreeing to the resolutions.

The question was taken and the resolutions were unanimously agreed to.

MEMORIAL ADDRESSES

ADDRESS OF MR. JONES, OF VIRGINIA

Mr. SPEAKER: It becomes our duty to pause for a brief moment amid the busy scenes and active legislative work of this House to pay fitting tribute to the life and character of a departed colleague. Nothing has impressed me so painfully during my somewhat extended service in this body as the appalling frequency with which we are called upon to mourn the death of our Congressional associates, friends, and daily companions. Even before they had taken their seats, and entered upon the active duties of this Congress, two most distinguished and widely known Senators, each bearing a commission from the State of Alabama, passed serenely to their final rest, full of honors and of years. And scarcely had the grave closed over the mortal remains of another honored son of our beloved Southland, a distinguished Senator of the State of South Carolina, when, only three short days ago, the entire country was startled by the announcement that Senator Redfield Proctor, of Vermont, long a conspicuous figure in the councils of the nation, had suddenly been summoned to that "undiscovered country from whose bourne no traveler returns." And although the visitations of death during this session have been less frequent in this Hall than in the other Chamber of Congress, two of its Members, George W. Smith, of Illinois, and CAMPBELL SLEMP, of Virginia, have answered their last earthly roll call and passed into the great beyond.

Of all the States of this Union none, within my personal knowledge of the membership of Congress, has been so stricken by the hand of death as has Virginia. Since the beginning of the first session of the Fifty-second Congress fourteen of those who at one time or another served that State in Congress have laid down the honors conferred upon them, as well as the cares and burdens of this life, and gone the way which those of us who for the time being are left behind must sooner or later travel.

Of these, Lee, who had been reelected, passed away before taking his seat in the Fifty-second Congress; but Barbour, Epes, Otey, Richard A. Wise, and Rixey died in the midst of their legislative duties and with the harness still on, whilst Edmonds, Meredith, Turner, Lawson, Walker, O'Ferrall, and George D. Wise lived to witness the termination of their Congressional careers and surrendered up their lives amid the peaceful scenes and quiet environments of their Virginia homes.

Such has been the mortality in the comparatively small delegation from the State of Virginia during the period in which I have, in part, had the honor to serve it here. The bare recital of stern realities so strikingly impressive as these can but serve to admonish the strongest and most heedless among us that life at best is beset by snares and full of uncertainties, and that "Death rides upon every passing breeze"

On Sunday, October 13, 1907, Col. CAMPBELL SLEMP, late a Representative from the Ninth Virginia District, died at his home at Big Stone Gap. His death was very sudden and came as a distinct shock to his many friends throughout Virginia and elsewhere.

My personal acquaintance with Colonel SLEMP began with the opening of the Fifty-eighth Congress, although I had long known of him as prominent in the politics of my State. Our homes

were separated by the extreme length of the State, a distance of more than 500 miles. For these reasons I have been obliged to rely to a very large extent upon those whose fortune it was to know him longer and more intimately for most of the facts connected with his long and somewhat eventful life, which I shall now briefly present.

Colonel SLEMP'S father, Sebastian Smith Slemp, was one of the foremost men of his section and a striking figure in his community. His mother, before her marriage, was Margaret Reasor, a member of one of the most prominent and well-known families in southwestern Virginia. Lee County is that extreme southwest section of the State running like a wedge for a number of miles between the State of Kentucky on the north and that of Tennessee on the south. Mountains rich with coal and ore there alternate with fertile valleys. Although to-day this county is justly regarded as one of the richest and most prosperous in the Commonwealth, conditions there were far different half a century ago. Then the railroads which now traverse every section of the county had not penetrated its fastnesses. Its inhabitants were cut off from the markets of the world, and the cattle for which that section of Virginia is now so widely famed were marketed in Baltimore, being driven many miles across the ranges of the Allegheny Mountains and up the Shenandoah Valley. Cattle raising and farming were the chief industries, and naturally the utter lack of transportation facilities and the almost inaccessibility of markets were not conducive to the rapid development of material wealth What such environments and conditions did develop was something infinitely better—a strong, hardy, self-reliant, and thoroughly independent manhood, and this doubtless largely accounts for the untiring energy, indomitable will, perfect self-reliance, and strong, practical common sense which in after life contributed

no little to the business successes and the political achievements of Colonel SLEMP.

The educational facilities of Lee County were very limited in those days, and so it was that his parents sent the subject of my remarks at an early age to Emory and Henry College, in Washington County, where most of the young men of that day and section were educated. Here young SLEMP applied himself assiduously to his studies; but the death of his father necessitated his return to his home three months before graduation. He was not permitted to remain there long, for the great conflict between the States was rapidly approaching, and having decided to cast his fortunes with those of his native State, although scarcely of age, he proceeded to raise a company, which was soon thereafter mustered into the service of the State and of the Confederacy. Whilst guarding the mountain passes leading from Kentucky into Virginia, Captain SLEMP'S command was opposed to that of Colonel Garfield, afterwards the martyr President of the United States. Later he served with his command in Kentucky. On his return to Virginia he organized the Sixty-fourth Virginia Regiment, of which he became the commanding officer, serving with it in southwestern Virginia, east Tennessee, and east Kentucky. Under General Marshall he participated in the raid through eastern Kentucky, and later he was ordered with his command to Chickamauga, but before his preparations had been completed the order was countermanded. His military services practically ended at Cumberland Gap, where the entire command of General Frazier, of which his regiment formed a part, was surrendered to the Union forces.

The war ended, Colonel SLEMP returned to his home in Lee County. He had married Miss Nancy Brittain Cawood, of Owsley County, Ky., in the year 1864, whilst serving in that

State, and having arranged to purchase the old Slemp homestead, he resolutely set to work to earn a livelihood for himself and family and to lay the foundations for the handsome competency which he later accumulated. There was still small opportunity for the accumulation of wealth in that isolated section, but by perseverance and industry and the exercise of that intelligence and fine business instinct which characterized his entire career as a man of affairs, he soon won for himself a commanding position in the industrial life of his section.

In 1878 Colonel SLEMP was elected to the house of delegates of Virginia, where he became an ardent advocate of the readjustment of the State's indebtedness, and where he numbered among his intimate friends such prominent leaders of that then popular movement as Gen. William Mahone, Senator H. H. Riddleberger, and Hon. John E. Massie. He was reelected to the house of delegates by a largely increased majority in 1880. Up to this time Colonel SLEMP was a Democrat in politics, but he subsequently, along with General Mahone and other prominent readjusters, became affiliated with the Republican party, to which political organization he ever afterwards gave his allegiance.

In 1883 he was a candidate for the state senate, but was defeated by a small majority, since many of his old friends and supporters among the readjusters—that issue having been settled—returned to the Democratic fold.

In 1890 he received the Republican nomination for lieutenant-governor on the unsuccessful ticket headed by General Mahone. The canvass which he made, however, brought him into state prominence, and thereafter he was frequently honored by his party, having more than once occupied the position of elector on its Presidential tickets.

In 1902 he was elected a Representative in Congress from the Ninth Congressional District, and he was twice thereafter

reelected by increased majorities, but in each of these three contests he was vigorously opposed, and only succeeded in winning the election after a bitterly contested campaign. It is safe, therefore, to affirm that the Ninth District has never witnessed harder fought political battles than the three from which Colonel SLEMP emerged as victor.

As the sole Representative of his party in Congress from Virginia, he was selected by President Roosevelt as the Republican referee for the entire State, and thus it was that his time became largely occupied in dispensing federal patronage. That he could under circumstances such as these give any considerable attention to his official and public duties is really to be wondered at, and yet at least one of his committee assignments demanded of him constant application and untiring work. He laid no claims to the graces and gifts of oratory and he made no speeches in Congress, but he was a laborious worker, and his intensely practical mind and strong po ers of application enabled him to accomplish much in the way of legislation.

It is no small tribute to Colonel SLEMP'S tactfulness as a man and to his skill and ability as a political leader that his absolute supremacy was never seriously contested by his party associates and that his party leadership was universally recognized and generally accepted throughout the State of Virginia, as well as in the district of which he was the actual Representative in Congress. That, as the sole dispenser of great federal patronage in his State, he did not incite bitter opposition to his leadership in his party is also a high tribute to his political sagacity and to his adroitness as a leader of men.

Colonel SLEMP was preeminently a man of action. In business, as in politics, he was ever aggressive, and in both was exceptionally successful. It is said of him that he fought for

everything in life which he obtained that was worth the having, and that he owed the eminence which he attained in politics to constant effort and persistent warfare.

For forty years he was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church South and a firm believer in its teachings, and, I am told, always a liberal contributor toward its support.

That he was steadfast and loyal to his friends and unflinchingly firm in his convictions is the judgment of those who knew him well, and I can bear cheerful and willing testimony that in all his relations to his colleagues he was uniformly courteous and ever regardful of their feelings. His bearing toward them was both unostentatious and unassuming, and in his intercourse with his fellow-members he was at all times genial and open-hearted. Politically, he and I were very far apart, and as to most of the great public questions now before the country we differed widely and radically, but personally our relations were most cordial and friendly and therefore it is that I have availed myself of this opportunity to speak of his life and achievements and to pay an humble tribute of respect to his memory.

To the keeping of those who loved him in life, and by whom his memory will ever be cherished, has been surrendered the record of his long, earnest life—a life full of effort and achievement. To them that record will ever remain a priceless inheritance and a sacred possession.

Address of Mr. Gaines, of West Virginia

Mr. Speaker: Those men whose lives are spent in a struggle to advance the principles in which they believe, against their own personal interests, at a sacrifice of their own comfort and with scant hope of success, must always command, not merely our respect, but our intense admiration.

The difference in our ages precluded any very intimate acquaintance and association between Colonel Slemp and myself. My personal acquaintance with him was limited to the Fifty-eighth Congress and Fifty-ninth Congress, during which we were both Members of this House. It falls therefore more properly to others than to me to review his career minutely. His entire history, however, was one of unselfish devotion to principle and indomitable determination to fight for his opinions, without regard to his interests. Taking first the company of which he was captain, then the regiment of which he was colonel, into the service of the Confederacy, a service which could appeal to no property interest of himself or of his mountaineer neighbors who followed him, he gave, when scarce more than a boy, an example of his capacity for leadership and his devotion to what he deemed to be right, characteristic not only of his life, but marking him unmistakably as a type of his section. Emerging from the poverty in which the war left him, by the avocations of the school-teacher and farmer he again presents himself as typical of the class and section to which he belonged. No one less responsive to the demands of duty, no one less obedient to the dictates of conscience, no one less disposed to disregard his own interests, his own ease and

comfort at the call of conviction, could by any possibility have lived such a life as his.

Knowing something in a large way of his history, and having known many men of his type in my own State, I was prepared to understand him perhaps better than most Members of this House. And so, not knowing him very well personally, I still took a deep interest in his career, recognizing in him a conspicuous type of a section and a people whose history has not yet been written.

Casting his lot as a young man with the Confederacy, on the side of the State against the great majority of his country, because he deemed his duty to be that way, he allied himself during his mature years to that political party which did not meet with the concurrence of the majority of the people of his State. The proprieties and my disposition on such an occasion prevent my saying anything partisan or political in its nature. But our admiration for courage, for determination, for devotion to a cause without regard to success, compel equal admiration for the men possessing those qualities, whether they be Confederates at Appomattox or Republicans in the South. It is a part of his history that when the troops of which his regiment was a part were to be surrendered he secured the permission of the general commanding to take his regiment and attempt their escape. Dividing what was left of his regiment into groups of seven, they made their way along the mountain side from Cumberland Gap to a place of safety, Colonel SLEMP and his immediate friends being the last to escape, and so were beyond the Union lines when the Confederate troops were surrendered. When the war was over, he and his regiment ceased to fight, but they had not surrendered.

The same spirit characterized him as a party leader. From every standpoint of interest, business and social, such a political

fight as he made was not easy. No man becomes or can become a leader in such a movement who consults either his fears or his love of ease. It is a leadership which belongs only to those men cast in such a mold that they can fight for their principles without reference to the result. Under such conditions those who count the cost either do not enter the controversy or enter it upon another side. There must have been many times during his long party leadership when Colonel SLEMP longed for the greater ease he had known amidst the failing fortunes of the Confederacy.

But mere blind courage, however admirable, will not suffice for such leadership. Sound judgment, untiring energy, infinite patience, and tact are alike necessary. No man can accomplish anything in such a controversy unless he possesses also those qualities which inspire the highest personal devotion and friendship. Such devotion and friendship are found only by those who in turn are true to their friends; and it is perhaps this trait of Colonel SLEMP'S character of which those who knew him will most frequently think as they recall his memory. And this conspicuous loyalty of friends and to friends is the only compensation for a life of such struggle at all commensurate with the labor required and the sacrifices entailed. The ardent devotion of his followers was to Colonel SLEMP, as death terminated his long fight for his principles, the chief recompense for his efforts in a cause in which leadership is at once a martyrdom and a triumph.

Address of Mr. Flood, of Virginia

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Campbell Slemp was born in Lee County, Va., on December 2, 1839.

He was educated in the common schools of Virginia of that day and at the Emory and Henry College, where most of the young men of southwest Virginia completed their education at that period.

With the hardy, virile, and independent spirit characteristic of mountain environment, and with the advantages of a somewhat extensive academic training, the inference would be natural that his career would be exceptional; and so it proved.

He entered the Confederate army in 1861, when just of age, as captain, and was subsequently promoted to lieutenant-colonel and colonel.

He was a Democrat until 1879, when the debt question split the party of the State. The issue was upon what was the just and equitable indebtedness of Virginia upon the debt contracted many years before the war for internal improvements.

While there was room for honest differences of opinion as to the right and equities in the case, the controversy was a most unhappy one for Virginia, especially so coming as it did at a period when the State was still crippled by the disasters and impoverishment of a long and devasting war and still agitated and unsettled by the dark problem of reconstruction.

Gen. William Mahone, who was afterwards United States Senator, was the leader of the section of the Democratic party in favor of readjusting the debt, which section acquired the

title of "Readjuster party." Colonel SLEMP cast his fortunes with this party and was elected as its representative to the house of delegates in 1879, and again in 1881. In 1880 he supported the Mahone-Hancock-English presidential ticket, and subsequently went with General Mahone into the Republican party, and in 1883 was the candidate of this party for the State senate, but was defeated.

In 1889 he was nominated by the Republican party of the State for lieutenant-governor upon the ticket headed by General Mahone for governor. This ticket was overwhelmingly defeated by the Democratic ticket led by Governor Philip W. McKinley.

Mr. SLEMP was not again a candidate for an office until 1902, when he was nominated by the Republicans of the Ninth Virginia district for Congress and was elected.

This district has from time to time been an uncertain and fluctuating political quantity—now Republican, now Democratic.

But in 1894 the powerful figure of Gen. James A. Walker, the last commander of the Stonewall Brigade, loomed up as the leader of the Republican party in the district. He was a man of commanding ability, of strong personality, of undaunted courage, and of overbearing will. In 1894 and 1896 he swept all opposition before him and carried the district by large majorities.

In 1898 the Democrats nominated a man who was of forceful and aggressive personality. His intellect was as strong, his will as imperious, and his courage as dauntless as were those of James A. Walker. The entire State watched the issue expectantly, for it was known that it would be "Greek meets Greek" when James A. Walker and William F. Rhea tried conclusions upon the hustings.

It was the custom in Virginia, in districts that were at all close, for the candidates of the respective parties to engage in joint discussions. Such discussions were arranged between Rhea and Walker. They proved to be intensely dramatic and interesting, and, at times, reached the danger point. The general opinion was that Rhea got the better of his opponent in these discussions, and he was elected, and again in 1900 he overthrew the same antagonist.

In 1902 the Republicans nominated Colonel SLEMP. He conducted a still-hunt campaign against Congressman Rhea, and succeeded in defeating him by a majority of 218. The defeat of such a man as Rhea reveals, without the telling, the fact of Colonel SLEMP'S popularity, influence, and power in his district.

Colonel SLEMP was reelected in 1904 over Hon. J. C. Wysor, one of the ablest lawyers and most brilliant orators in Virginia, by a majority of over 4,000; and was again elected in 1906, defeating ex-State Senator Robert P. Bruce, a splendid young Democrat, by a large majority.

As a Member of this House he made many friends by his genial manners and his kindly sympathies. His career here was quiet and unobtrusive; yet it was signalized by such untiring industry and eminent good sense that it redounded not only to the benefit of his district, but to the aggrandizement of the Republican party in the entire State.

Mr. Speaker, to the reflective mind there is an element of pathos in every life. However the candidate for earth's honors and ambitions may gird himself with the panoply of preparation, how eagerly soever he may stand expectant for the steed of opportunity, how exultantly soever he may vault into the saddle and ride in triumph to the coveted goal, yet in every case "does black care ride behind."

This is the dispensation to universal humanity; and I can pay no higher tribute to this House than in recalling that its generous and tender usage has always been to bury all memories of strife and contention in the grave of a colleague. We all look forward to this; and we shall not be disappointed.

"There is no pocket in a shroud." There are no polities in the tomb.

Those who have sat with us in this Chamber, and are gone from among men, we remember with chastened and kindly hearts.

And so of our departed colleague we all unite in saying, "Honor to his memory; peace to his ashes."

Address of Mr. Lassiter, of Virginia

Mr. Speaker: I did not have the honor of serving in this House with our deceased colleague, nor did I have the privilege of the personal acquaintance of Colonel Slemp. Our residences have been in widely separated parts of the State. Yet I can bear testimony that for many years his name echoed loudly in the Commonwealth and his activities have been notable in the recent history of Virginia.

I shall leave to my colleagues and to his more intimate political associates a proper survey of his public services and personal merits.

That he was a brave and masterful man is evident not only from his local achievements, but from the confidence reposed in him by the Federal Administration.

In an hour like this, when the divine mystery of death overshadows human ambition and shames the animosities of men, it is reassuring to those who love our country to recognize the high qualities of mind or heart which have always characterized the representatives of the American people.

The regard which I entertain for the son and successor of our late colleague, as well as the honor due to a gentleman who has borne the mandate of a Virginian constituency to represent its wishes in this Hall, impels me to say a word of personal sympathy to the living and respect to the memory of the dead.

Address of Mr. Campbell, of Kansas

Mr. Speaker: Colonel Slemp was one of almost 10,000 representative Americans who have given conspicuous service to their country in this House. His services here were not distinguished upon the floor. He was not a debater, but one acquainted with the duties of a Member of this House well knows that much arduous work is done here that is not evidenced upon the floor. Colonel Slemp was referee for all the political patronage of the State of Virginia. That of itself is a sufficient burden for the shoulders of any man, however great. That he did this work and did it well is evidenced by the fact that he was returned to this House one session after another for three consecutive terms, at a time when he had at his disposal all the Federal patronage within his State. In addition to all of this, Colonel Slemp had the work of a Member of this body that is required in the Departments here, and everyone who has had service in this House knows how arduous that service is and how burdensome it sometimes becomes. A visit to two or three departments a day, keeping up the enormous correspondence that is necessary, requires a degree of industry that is not required of men in the average walks of life. He was a man of patient industry and did his work faithfully and well. My acquaintance with Colonel Slemp began in the work of one of the busiest committees in the House, that on the District of Columbia. The work there is similar to the work that is required of the common council of a city of the size of Washington. Mr. Slemp was always at his post. He was wise as a counselor on civic affairs, always ready to devote himself to duty, and never

shrank from a single responsibility. He lived the life of a busy man. He was born to a life of struggle and contention. He endured the trials of war and reconstruction in his younger manhood. Virginia had problems after Appomattox. Colonel SLEMP took them up and assisted in adjusting them all. He met and was equal to every responsibility that rested upon him as a citizen. He did his duty as he saw it. No man can do more, and no higher tribute can be paid to a citizen of this country or to a Member of this House than to say of him that he did his duty faithfully as he saw it.

Colonel SLEMP has experimented with the problem of life and has solved the great mystery of death. He, like all the innumerable multitude who have preceded him to the grave, was cheered with the hope of victory and depressed with the fear of defeat; he was able to gratify a lofty ambition and win in many of life's notable conflicts, but when the great summons came he yielded, as all men must. To that summons no man can say nay. Life, with its hopes, with its fears, with its ambitions, with its conquests, and its defeats, must end. 'Tis the fate of all. Every man, whatever his hopes, may look forward to the time when he, too, shall answer to the summons that calls to the grave. Position, place, and power are not a defense. Ambition, achievement, and responsibility are not a bar. From the cradle to the grave life is a conflict with death. The infant struggles for life in its beginning, and finds it a struggle throughout to the end, when the mystery of death solves the last problem of life—

> E'en silent night proclaims my soul immortal,
> E'en silent night proclaims eternal day.

In this hope death loses its sting and the grave its victory.

Address of Mr. Lamb, of Virginia

Mr. Speaker: For the fifth time in twice as many years the Virginia Representatives in this House are called upon to pay tribute to the character and public services of a deceased colleague. The death of one-half of their number in a decade suggests the old, old thought that "in the midst of life we are in death." These deaths have come to the young and middle-aged as well as to the old. They are solemn and stern reminders that the youngest and strongest may be called away at any hour, and that the oldest among us would do well to so carry ourselves in life that our goods and chattels may be packed and ready for the departure we must soon make.

These frequent deaths remind us of a passage in one of Thackeray's letters. He was referring to a friend who had died, and he wrote:

> He was ready, I suppose, and had his passport made out for his journey. Next comes our little turn to pack up and depart. To stay is well enough, but shall we be very sorry to go? What more is there in life that we haven't tried? What that we have tried is so very much worth repetition or endurance? I have just come from a beefsteak and potatoes and a bottle of claret, both excellent of their kind, but we can part from them without a very severe pang, and note that we shall get no greater pleasures than these from this time till the end of our days. What is a greater pleasure? Gratified ambition? Accumulation of money? What?

We have the answer in a Latin maxim: "Vanitas, vanitatem;" or, from the theologian's standpoint—

> "Vanity of vanities," saith the preacher; "all is vanity."

Since we are called upon so frequently to contemplate death and know that we shall before long explore the "uncharted seas" ourselves, let us contemplate it as a state less mysterious

and even more natural than life. The only thing we need fear about it is that it may catch us using life unwisely—with empty hands, and work all undone.

The brave man learns as the soldier does to put the fear of his own death behind him, and if he think of death at all it will be at such times when the scythe has cut down some loved one or some honored friend and colleague, as is the case with us this hour.

For himself there is no fear. No man can afford to waste his thoughts and time on death. The work we are put here to do demands our energies and powers. Just in proportion as we do this work faithfully will we be held in esteem by our fellows—our names recalled with pleasure and our memories revered by the generations that follow us.

In the death of CAMPBELL SLEMP, Lee County, Va., has lost an honored and useful citizen, and the Ninth Virginia District a Representative who was honored by an election for three successive terms in Congress.

He was a man of action and his life was one of achievement, as we may well infer from the period of his birth and the condition of southwest Virginia at that time. Lee County is that extreme southwest section of the Commonwealth of Virginia, running like a wedge for a number of miles between the State of Kentucky on the north and Tennessee on the south. In the youth of SLEMP no railroads penetrated the mountains of Lee County. Stock were driven through the Allegheny Mountains or up the Shenandoah Valley to Baltimore. Goods were hauled long distances to market over mountain roads. The people were poor, while great riches were hidden beneath the rugged mountains that look eternal.

These very conditions, however, helped to produce strong and practical men who developed self-reliance and determination.

These characteristics were observed by those who were thrown with Colonel SLEMP. After attending the schools in Lee County he was sent to Emory and Henry College, one of the oldest institutions of learning in southwest Virginia. It is said that at Emory and Henry he was not only a diligent student, but one of the most popular. Then, no doubt, developed those traits that made him a favorite with his fellows in civil and military life and giving him at the age of 21 a captaincy in the Confederate States of America.

It is shown by the Confederate records that CAMPBELL SLEMP entered the Confederate service September 16, 1861, at Camp Lane, Lee County, Va., as captain Company A, Pound Gap Battalion, afterwards known as Company A, Twenty-first Battalion Virginia Cavalry, Confederate States army. He was promoted to be lieutenant-colonel, same battalion, date not stated, and he was reported present with the organization on April 30, 1862. On November 24, 1862, the regiment was consolidated with other Virginia troops to form the Sixty-fourth Virginia Infantry, Confederate States army, and he was appointed colonel of the new regiment, to rank from December 14, 1862.

The Union sentiment north of Lee County was strong—that in East Tennessee was still stronger—yet the people of Lee County, for the most part, were loyal to their State and the Confederacy, and furnished their full quota of men to the Southern army.

These men under SLEMP were engaged at Pound Gap and were there opposed by Colonel (afterwards General) Garfield. Later this command was sent over into Kentucky, where it took part in many skirmishes with the Union forces.

Returning to Virginia, Colonel SLEMP organized the Sixty-fourth Virginia Regiment, of which he became colonel, and with this regiment operated in Virginia, East Tennessee, and eastern

Kentucky. The services of his regiment practically ended at Cumberland Gap in 1865, where General Frazier and his command was surrendered to the Union forces. The Union records of prisoners of war show that Colonel SLEMP was paroled May 2, 1865, at Cumberland Gap, Tenn.

In the death of Colonel SLEMP another of the ex-Confederates of this House has fallen asleep. In the Fifty-fourth Congress there were thirty-two of these men here. To-day we number seven. In the Southland they are falling more rapidly than they fell in battle, and on the other side, those by whose deeds of valor we may well measure our chivalry and manhood are falling at the rate of 300 each month.

The conflict in which they engaged will soon be only a memory, while their sons will vie with each other in paying tribute to the heroism and valor of the men who wore the blue and the men who wore the gray. Monuments to each will be built on the battlefields where American valor won and lost. Faithful historians will record the facts free from the prejudices of the hour and can not fail to make mention that the one side was right under the strict construction of the Constitution and the other side right under the changed conditions of public sentiment in their respective communities. The philosophical historian of the future will not fail to record the achievements in civil life of the men who returned from the armies to their homes—often to desolate homes, where there was more than one vacant chair.

On the Southern side it required more moral courage and strength of character to meet the stern duties and pressing responsibilities of life than it did to face the mortal perils of the battlefield. Heroes they were called in war. Greater heroes were these men in peace. For their sacrifices and toils in building up their wasted fortunes; for their patience under the reconstruction laws; for their manly triumph over innumerable diffi-

culties, due to burdensome taxation and constantly falling prices, the world will some day mete out to them full praise in story and song.

The company and regiment that Colonel SLEMP led in the engagements to which we have referred were among these men. They averaged perhaps 25 years of age when the curtain fell upon the tragic scene at Appomattox, and for the most of them at Cumberland Gap. Lee County had suffered greatly, though not so much as the counties that I have the honor to represent on this floor. These men, with their comrades, have made that county rich by their enterprise and their labors. Many of them, like Colonel SLEMP, were men of intelligence and force of character, and became, as he did, leading figures in the civil and business life of his section.

In 1878 they elected him to the house of delegates of Virginia over several competitors. In 1889 he was nominated on his ticket for lieutenant-governor and made a thorough canvass of the State. He was often selected as chairman of district and state conventions and was elector in the Harrison and McKinley campaigns.

The people of his district, who were better judges of his life and character than we, who were only thrown with him in the ordinary business of this House, bestowed on him their highest honors, and elected him over talented men like Wysor and Bruce and others.

Southwest Virginia is Republican for two reasons not well understood on this floor. The old-time Whigs inherited their opposition to Democracy. Even the most conservative of the Clay Whigs had to be graduated into the Democratic ranks through the name of "Conservative Democrats."

A great number refused to take the degree. In 1878 a third party, the Readjuster party, swept the State, producing bitter-

ness of feeling and dividing the Democratic party. Its success was made possible through the negro vote It soon ran its course, and when the flood subsided it left a few strong and many good men in the Republican party who had hitherto affiliated with the Democrats. Like many revolutions, it had its compensations. It taught some Democrats to conquer their prejudices, and it impressed nearly all with the stern necessity of holding to the "ancient landmarks."

The members of the grand old party of southwest Virginia can not be designated by their complexions altogether. A bright little girl of 7 years of age in my hotel from one of the Southern States, addressing a gentle and comely lady from New Jersey, said: "Are you a republic?" The lady replied: "Yes; I am what you call a republic." The child quickly replied: "Well, you are too good looking; you are the best looking republic I ever saw." Had the little child been raised within the shadow of the mountains of southwest Virginia or played along the banks of the limpid streams that flow on forever she would have met as many fair "republics" as ever watched from the Jersey coast the incoming time from old ocean's wave.

Mr. Chairman, the laws of compensation come to most men as they journey through this bustling, active life that the pessimist describes as a "vale of tears."

Men like Colonel SLEMP, who had to be the architects of their own fortune and struggle heroically against adverse conditions, are often comforted, as he was, with children, who grew up around him with advantages and opportunities that were denied him. He looked upon these as beings of new hope and labored well to educate them. If from the spirit land we shall watch the scenes being enacted here, our deceased colleague behold with delight and gratification his seat filled by his own son. Man lives again in those to whom he has given being. Our

mistakes only furnish beacon lights to warn them of danger, while our little successes stimulate them to renewed efforts and serve as guideposts along life's journey.

In paying this tribute to the memory of my deceased colleague, I express the earnest hope that happiness and contentment may attend those who immediately bind his memory to earth.

Address of Mr. Holliday, of Indiana

Mr. Speaker: During the last few years of his life I was well and intimately acquainted with Campbell Slemp. During the Fifty-eighth and Fifty-ninth Congresses we boarded at the same hotel. We were about the same age. He had worn the gray while I was wearing the blue, and, like a great many other old men, we liked to get together and exchange reminiscences. We lived to some extent in the past, as is characteristic of men of our age. In that way our friendship became intimate and, like everybody else who knew him, I liked him well. His laugh was so genial, his smile was so contagious, his hearty hand grasp was so wholesome that it was a delight and joy to meet him. We never talked politics. We would most of our time talk about old times when we were boys, and we got a lot of pleasure out of it, and to-day I take a great deal of pleasure in remembering those things and the pleasure I got and the pleasure I gave to him during those conversations. When the war broke out between the two sections of the country Mr. Slemp threw in his fortune with his State as against the great body of the nation. He fought her battles well and gallantly. He led men, as gallant soldiers as followed Alexander the Great during his career, and when the fortune of war had gone against him, when the flag he loved went down in defeat, he did not repine; he did not go whining about, complaining of his ill luck. He went to work, like thousands of other brave men who were with him, to build up the country that had been destroyed, to replace the waste places, and restore the grand old Commonwealth which he loved so well to her ancient prosperity.

I am glad he did this, not only he but thousands of others, and from that time onward he had the interest of his State as well as the interest of the United States closely at heart. There are men who will say that CAMPBELL SLEMP was wrong when he cast his fortunes with the Confederacy; there are men who will say that he was wrong when he cast his political fortunes with the party to which he had been a long time opposed. We will not discuss that. That is not for us to say, but we who know him, know that his convictions were as strong as the eternal hills among which he dwelt, and either in peace or war, in the field of battle or in the field of politics, CAMPBELL SLEMP followed his convictions, and that is enough for us to know. He had a stormy career undoubtedly. He was situated so, and his environments were such that it must have been stormy; but after life's fitful fever he sleeps well, and his death admonishes those of us who are his contemporaries, if we need any admonition, that our time is coming within the near future. We have nothing to complain about; we have done our part; we have tried to do it. I may say in passing, in speaking of his legislative career, although I was intimate with him, we did not talk very much about legislative matters, and I am inclined to think, to be fair about it, that he, like myself and a few others, entered the political arena too late in life to acquire distinction in the halls of legislation, but he did his duty. He was honest, upright, fair, always ready. No amount of trouble and no amount of worry could dim his good humor or bring a frown to his face. He has gone and they are fast going.

Those men who played an important part during those troublous days are fast passing away. We think they have done their share well, and it seems to me there is nothing grander in history than the action of the two great armies after the civil

war. I speak of this to-day because he was a splendid representative of one of those armies. The Northern army—flushed with victory, some people thought they would establish a military dictatorship over this country—melted away into the ranks of peaceful life without causing a ripple. The Southern army, while they told us, and I confess I had some fears, they would start a guerilla warfare, did nothing of the kind, but went to peaceful pursuits in life, and the country in a few years was as strong and vigorous as ever.

Gentlemen, I regard that as really greater than the battles which these men fought, the battle of self-abnegation, the battle for better things and better conditions after the bloody conflict was over.

CAMPBELL SLEMP has passed away. We, his contemporaries, will not survive him very long, but we are glad to know that the world has grown since we have been in it. It is one of those things that gives pride to a man, who has climbed to the heights of life and is going down on the other side, to know that he will leave the world a little better than he found it. I feel that, and I am optimistic about it. The men who, like CAMPBELL SLEMP, have set an example of duty to a cause, whether right or wrong, consecrated themselves and their lives to what they believed to be right, are among the country's noblest exemplars.

Address of Mr. Chaney, of Indiana

Mr. Speaker:

> We live in deeds, not years; in thoughts, not breaths;
> In feelings, not in figures on a dial.
> We should count time by heart-throbs. He most lives
> Who thinks most, feels the noblest, acts the best.

Campbell Slemp was a Virginian by birth and life. In 1839 his eyes first saw the light. He honored the State which gave him birth, and for almost fourscore years, boy and man, he served well the "Old Dominion." I served on no committee with him here.

I knew him only since he came to Congress; and I found him genial, sociable, and reliable. Endowed by nature with a happy turn of mind, he wore the cares of public office easily and agreeably. He was always at his best in answering a political question, deciding a post-office controversy, or proving to a constituent why he failed to accomplish a task. Living only a limited distance from the National Capital, and being the only Republican Member from his State, everybody from Virginia came to him for everything; and every morning from 7 o'clock to noon, at the Ebbitt House, where we both lived, and in the lobby of the House when Congress was in session, and again at the hotel up to the hour of retirement at night, the hearty laugh of Mr. Slemp was heard. Everyone liked him, for he was everyone's friend.

In the "great unpleasantness" he, with the ardor of a local pride and the inspiration of a controlling environment, served the Confederate cause. As captain, lieutenant-colonel, and

colonel he chivalrously wore the "gray" and valiantly battled for the avowed sovereignty of the Southern States. On a Confederate tombstone in Georgia there is an inscription: "To the memory of those who died for a brave and simple faith." It was in this "brave and simple faith" he believed, and for this "brave and simple faith" he fought on to the end of that incomparable struggle. But when the swift, flashing blade had declared that there was no sovereignty but the Stars and Stripes, he doffed the habiliments of rebellion and held up his hand to the Lincoln interpretation of the Constitution, southern Democrat though he was. After that the prejudices of reconstruction did not concern him quite so much as fidelity to the Union, and with patriotic devotion he labored to rebuild the temple of absolute liberty "without the hope of fee or reward." To that purpose he brought every energy and every faculty. Not finding a ready enough acceptance of the "malice toward none and the charity for all" of the sainted President, and differing with his party on some important public questions, he left the Democratic party in 1880, along with that splendid Virginia American, William Mahone. He soon enrolled his name among those who believe that "one man's liberty ends where another's begins." He was not one of those to commit "the unpardonable sin," and there was no unpardonable sin, in his view, in anybody else.

I like the man who is too courteous and honorable to impugn the motives of his fellows, and I always believe in his good intentions, for he is generally too worthy to have any other kind. I would that every man could shake off the sad mistakes of his life, that there might be no weight to his progress, so that he could the better run the swift race of success. I would that men could easily discriminate between the essentials and the nonessentials of life, like unto the judge on the

bench, between that which is evidence and that which is not evidence.

There is more lost to life and progress and civilization and humanity through brooding over fancied wrongs, unwarranted inferences, and unprovable assumptions than there is by panics, and wars, and hurricanes, and accidents, and disasters. Fortunate is the man who can create within himself a liberal heart, a tolerant spirit, an equity of conscience, and thereon build a character which commands unstinted acceptance and liberal respect.

There are three eternities, "faith, hope, and love." "Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen," and is a substantial element of human life. Hope opens the eyes wide, clasps the hands of friendship and confidently goes forth to conquer and to satisfy. Love is the charity of the human heart which binds together families, and friends, and states, and principalities, and powers. CAMPBELL SLEMP was endowed with a liberal heart, a tolerant spirit, an equity of conscience, and these three eternities possessed him body and soul, mind and strength.

He was a typical American, born of her soil, baptized in her crystal waters, nurtured in her admonitions, inspired by her possibilities. He was a true citizen of the Republic, for he believed in doing unto others as he would that others should do unto him. Indeed, this was his religion. It is a scripture impossible of misinterpretation, and worthy of universal acknowledgment.

Mr. SLEMP was a man of earnest convictions, of uncompromising conscience, of honorable impulses. He was likewise affable, courteous, and generous hearted. He lived not to himself alone, but to contribute his share of the world's work and to assume his full portion of its responsibilities. His life

was respectable, creditable, and successful. He died as he lived, in the open view and critical scrutiny of the best citizenship of Virginia, and with the approving conscience of his associates in Congress. He put off not until to-morrow what he could well do to-day. He spoke the words, he did the things, he cheered the hearts, and he kept the faith of family and friends, of State and nation. His life was guided by the poet:

We shall do so much in the years to come,
But what have we done to-day?
We shall give our gold in a princely sum,
But what did we give to-day?
We shall lift the heart and dry the tear;
We shall plant a hope in the place of fear.
We shall speak the words of love and cheer,
But what did we speak to-day?
We shall be so kind in the afterwhile,
But what was the kindness to-day?
We shall bring each lonely life a smile,
But what have we brought to-day?
We shall give to truth a grander birth,
And to steadfast faith a deeper worth.
We shall feed the hungering souls of earth,
But whom have we fed to-day?
We shall reap such joys in the by-and-by,
But what have we sown to-day?
We shall build us mansions in the sky,
But what have we built to-day?
'Tis sweet in idle dreams to bask,
But here and now do we do our task?
Yes, this is the thing our souls must ask
What have we done to-day?

Mr. JONES, of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, as some of those who had indicated a desire to speak on this occasion are unavoidably absent, I ask unanimous consent that they may be permitted to print their remarks in the Record.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection?

There was no objection.

Mr. JONES, of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, as a further mark of respect to the memory of the deceased, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 12 minutes p. m.) the House adjourned.

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